

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

1. Applicator's quick response contains manure spill

APPLICATOR'S QUICK RESPONSE CONTAINS MANURE SPILL

HAWKEYE — A commercial manure applicator worked quickly Tuesday afternoon to prevent a manure spill from reaching a body of water.

While hauling manure to a field location for application, a D & J Pumping tanker tipped over in a road ditch, spilling about 6,000 gallons of manure. The spill occurred approximately at 1:45 p.m., about a half-mile south of the intersection of Highway 18 and W Avenue in Fayette County.

The producer, Gold Standard Farms, and the applicator, D & J Pumping, both reported the spill to the DNR within 20 minutes.

The DNR was on site to assist the applicator with containing and cleaning up the spill. To prevent the manure from entering a stream, the applicator blocked the first driveway culvert down gradient of the spill with road rock. A small trench was dug by hand to pool the manure in the ditch. A call to Iowa One Call was made before any further excavating was conducted and the site had been assessed for underground utilities, such as power lines and pipelines. The liquid manure was then pumped out of the ditch.

Manure spills are required to be reported to the DNR within six hours of discovery, but reporting a spill as soon as possible can help minimize environmental damage.

“With spring manure application season here, it’s important that producers and applicators report spills to the DNR quickly so we can assist with cleanup,” said Mike Wade, an environmental specialist with the DNR field office in Manchester. “The applicator’s response to the spill near Hawkeye – quickly reporting the spill and working to contain the spill – was a good example of what to do. These are skills that we teach in our manure applicator certification training.”

Producers and applicators should also have an emergency plan in place for spills, Wade added.

To report a manure spill, contact your local DNR environmental services field office during normal business hours. Outside of normal business hours, contact the 24-hour spill line at (515) 281-8694.

DNR field offices:

Manchester (563) 927-2640

Mason City (641) 424-4073

Spencer (712) 262-4177

Atlantic (712) 243-1934

Des Moines (515) 725-0268

Washington (319) 653-2135

For more information, contact Mike Wade at (563) 927-2640.